(a) whether proposal for Direct Archaeological Museum, Shahdol; Mella, Rani Durgawati Museam, Jabalpur, Yashodharaman Museum, Mandsore, and Central Museum, Indore, has been received from Government of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action being taken thereon and until when it should be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted proposals for financial assistance in respect of District Archaeological Museum at Shahdol, District Archaeological Museum at Mandla, Rani Durgawati Museum at Jabalpur, Yashodharaman Archaeology Museum at Mandsour and Central Museum, of Indore under the scheme for 'Setting Up, Promotion & Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums'. Upon scrutiny, the applications were found to be deficient with respect to certain mandatory requirements. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has been requested to furnish the same.

Smuggling of Indian artefacts

1555. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of smuggling of Indian artefacts, which are mostly stolen from archaeological sites, have been increasing in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government proposed to set up antiques data base in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has set up any Committee of experts of Culture and Archaeology for preparation of antiques data base in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; State-wise; and

(f) the time fixed by the Government to complete the said project in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India has launched "National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities" (NMMA) on 19th March, 2007 which has the mandate of documenting archaeological resources, including antiquities, throughout the country.

(d) and (e) The NMMA has set up State Level Implementation Committees (SLIC) in about 20 States and in the remaining setting up of SLICs is in the Government officials. They, with the help of a large number of documentation centres across the country are required to prepare data base of monuments and antiquities.

(f) The NMMA is given 5 years time-frame ending in March 2012 to accomplish the task.

Development and maintenance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial

1556. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to give corpus fund for development and maintenance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial at Karamsad, Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which Government proposes to start the work regarding development/maintenance of the said memorial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) A decision has been taken by the Government to sanction a one time capital grant of Rs.3 crore and an appropriate annual maintenance grant to Sardar Patel Trust for development and maintenance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel - Veer Vithalbhai Patel Memorial at Karamsad, Gujarat. The Trust will undertake the development and maintenance of the memorial.

Records in National Archives

1557. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite rules on the same Ministries don't transfer records to National Archives;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when post 1947 Government records would be available in National Archives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With increasing pressure of work; Ministries are reportedly unable to give adequate attention to the classification of old files for the purpose of sending them to the National Archives. Another reason may be that in the last four decades, several ministries and departments have reorganized and their parts relocated, while newer ministries set up, all of which may have caused some breaks *vis-a-vis* the custody and classification of old records.

(c) The Cabinet Secretary has also reviewed the matter on 31st October, 2009 and laid down a plan of action.

Endangered heritage sites

1558. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: